



In the Weeds

Fresh Pond Reservation
Volunteer Stewards Update

October 25 2010

Volume 3

1. Monday nights: We are rapidly running out of sunlight for Monday night meetups! So for those who'd like 1 last opportunity to join in on the fun, I'd like to do a ***Sunday Volunteer Day on November 14th from 1-4pm*** (I'll bring some snacks to share). Please let me know if you'd like to join me then and I'll be sure to save you a weed wrench. For those who can't get enough and have some spare time (and there is plenty to do!) I could meet on ***Mondays*** from ***2-4pm*** instead, if there's interest. Please let me know if you'd like to meet up then.
2. Thursday afternoons: We'll meet ***tomorrow, October, 28*** and next week, ***November 4th*** from ***2-4pm***. The following week is Veteran's Day and the week after that we'll be collecting purple loosestrife data (see item #4). Since the week after that is Thanksgiving, depending on the weather, I think we'll end Thursday meetups with purple loosestrife on ***November 18th***.
3. Purple Loosestrife Take 1: Next ***Monday, November 1st*** from ***5-6pm*** will be the first of two ***purple loosestrife biocontrol project monitoring***. We'll be counting and measuring loosestrife (invasive wetland) plants in the Little Fresh Pond wetland where loosestrife-munching beetles were released last spring. We'll then compare the new data with data collected over the past 4 years to see how our little friends are doing. Please let me know if you can make it. We'll need to meet promptly at 5:00 so we can drive over to the golf course clubhouse parking lot to shorten our walk to our test plot. Come dressed for bushwacking!
4. Purple Loosestrife Take 2: We'll meet to finish up data collection on ***Thursday, November 18*** from ***2 - 4pm***, during our regularly scheduled steward meetup.
5. Volunteer Appreciation Potluck Dinner: ***December 6th, 5:30—7:30pm*** at the Water Department. More on that soon, but please save the date!

To help make sense of it all, here's a calendar, suitable for printing, of upcoming 2010 steward events in bold, plus Friends events & the next Shared Use Mtg:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			OCT 27	28 Meetup 2-4pm	29	30 Mushroom Madness 2-5pm
31	NOV 1 Purple Loosestrife I: 5-6pm	2	3	4 Meetup 2-4pm	5	6 Fall Migration Bird Walk 9-11am
7	8 Meetup? 2-4pm	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13 Stargazing at Payson Park 7-8:30
14 Volunteer Day 1-4 pm	15 Tour of the H2O Facility 6-7:30 Meetup? 2-4pm	16	17	18 Purple Loosestrife II: 2-4pm	19	20 Do the Duck Walk 9-11am
21	22 Meetup? 2-4pm	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26 Deb on vacation – back on Dec 6	27
28	29	30 Shared Use Mtg 6:30-9pm	DEC 1	2	3	4
5	6 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 5:30 – 7:30	7	8	9	10	11

The following page features a brief roundup of our recent work: Since the last issue of *In the Weeds* we've met 5 times and put in 40 human hours (sorry about rain cancellations with no rain). Here are just a few highlights:

- Thanks to **Rebecca, Richard, Elizabeth, and Betsy**, we just about finished our work for this year weeding out black locust, smartweed, black nightshade, and pokeweed up at the top of Glacken Slope. We'll also plan on gathering white wood aster seeds from the bottom of the slope and dispersing them up top in areas where there is currently sparse vegetation.
- Racing against the setting sun (which was beautiful on the pond!) **Elizabeth, Betsy, Jodi, and Colleen** yanked out some buckthorn, asian bittersweet, and privet from the perimeter path just past the parking lot – unfortunately, we left Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, and quite a bit of black swallowwort acting as groundcover.
- In the butterfly meadow **Elizabeth, Rebecca, and Betsy** cleaned out the spotted knapweed, asian bittersweet, mugwort, and buckthorn, while **Richard** wrenched out cottonwood saplings growing in the meadow (not invasive but definitely don't belong in a meadow). We found some beautiful gaillardia still blooming, enjoyed watching goldfinches flitting about, and also shared some tasty snacks.
- As the sun began to drop out of the sky, **Colleen, Andy, Jodi, Betsy, and Elizabeth** helped us identify, collect, label, and bag 12 different species of grass and wildflower seeds (lots of asters, goldenrods, blue vervain, woolgrass, evening primrose, and milkweeds) from Kingsley Bioswale to spread in Lusitania Meadow.
- Though our time was limited, we returned to Lusitania Meadow where **Elizabeth and Colleen** began scattering milkweed and aster seeds from Kingsley Bioswale and started documenting seed dispersal using a handheld GPS unit, which we are learning how to use. **Betsy** had her way with the mugwort that's sprung up since the last time she ambushed it, while **Ellie and Lisa** worked with **Eric** on prying burdock out of the ground with his brand new handmade burdock removal tools.

THANK YOU EVERYONE!!!